

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Creator: John Wilson

Field Office: Stillwater

Lead Office: Stillwater

Case File/Project Number: N/A

Applicable Categorical Exclusion 516 DM 11.9, Section A. Fish and Wildlife, Number 5:
Routine augmentations, such as fish stocking, providing no new species are introduced.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2013-0015-CX

Project Name: Desert Bighorn Sheep Augmentation

Project Description: The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), proposes to release approximately 20-35 nelson bighorn sheep into six release locations located within the Stillwater District of the Carson City BLM from December 2012 to December 2017(See Map). All areas contain small populations of bighorn during certain times of the year. These augmentations are intended to build numbers to a self-sustaining level. Timing of augmentations will be based on completion of authorized water developments. The sheep will come from herds in Nevada that have excess animals. Bighorn are trapped, loaded into a trailer and hauled to the release site. The exact trapping location is not known until just prior to the activity taking place. Due to the large size of the equipment being used, good condition two- track, gravel or paved roads are the only ones used to access a release site. There is no off-road driving. The trailer doors are opened and NDOW personnel wait for the bighorn to come out of the trailer.

NDOW asks for such a large time frame to complete these bighorn augmentations because the size and scope of the project will take some time and resources. Once the water developments are completed NDOW plans to augment bighorn sheep into these areas. It is not known at this time what herds will be augmented first. Once augmentations are completed the file will be sent to the BLM. Prior to a release the BLM will be notified of the logistics.

Applicant Name: NDOW

Project Location: The six release locations are the following (Nad 83) UTM:

1. Miller Mountain 11S 396447 4217701 (Summer, Fall 2013,14,15,16 Summer, Fall 2017)
2. Candelaria Hills 11S 401495 4226741 (Summer, Fall 2013,14,15,16- Summer, Fall 2017)

3. Garfield Hills 11S 392809 4254960 (Summer, Fall 2013,14,15,16- Summer, Fall 2017)
4. Gillis Range 11S 366118 4278070 (Summer, Fall 2013,14,15,16- Summer, Fall 2017)
5. Sand Springs Range UTM 11S 378600 4334069 (Summer, Fall 2013,14,15,16- Summer, Fall 2017)

BLM Acres for the Project Area: 0

Land Use Plan Conformance: WLD-7: Proposed introductions, transplants, augmentations, and reestablishment for both floral and faunal species shall follow BLM Manual 1745, and any other additional Nevada State Office guidelines.

Name of Plan: Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001)

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria: (Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		JP
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (Archeology, Recreation, Wilderness, Wildlife, Range by allotment, Water Quality)		CS la JES SM
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (PEC)		PMZ
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		PMZ
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (PEC)		PMZ
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		PMZ
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (Archeology)		SPM
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (Wildlife)		PMZ FDV SW
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (PEC and		PMZ

Archeology)		
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		<i>PMZ</i>
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (Archeology)		<i>me</i>
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		<i>22</i>

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Planning Environmental Coordinator, Steve Kramer: *PMZ 11/26/2012*
 Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *JD 12-5-12*
 Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer: *12/4/12 Dan - see attached memo*
 Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson:
 Archeology, Susan McCabe: *me 11/26/12 APC. 1.*
 Water Quality, Gabe Venegas:
 Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *CS 11/26/2012 la 11/26/12*

CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

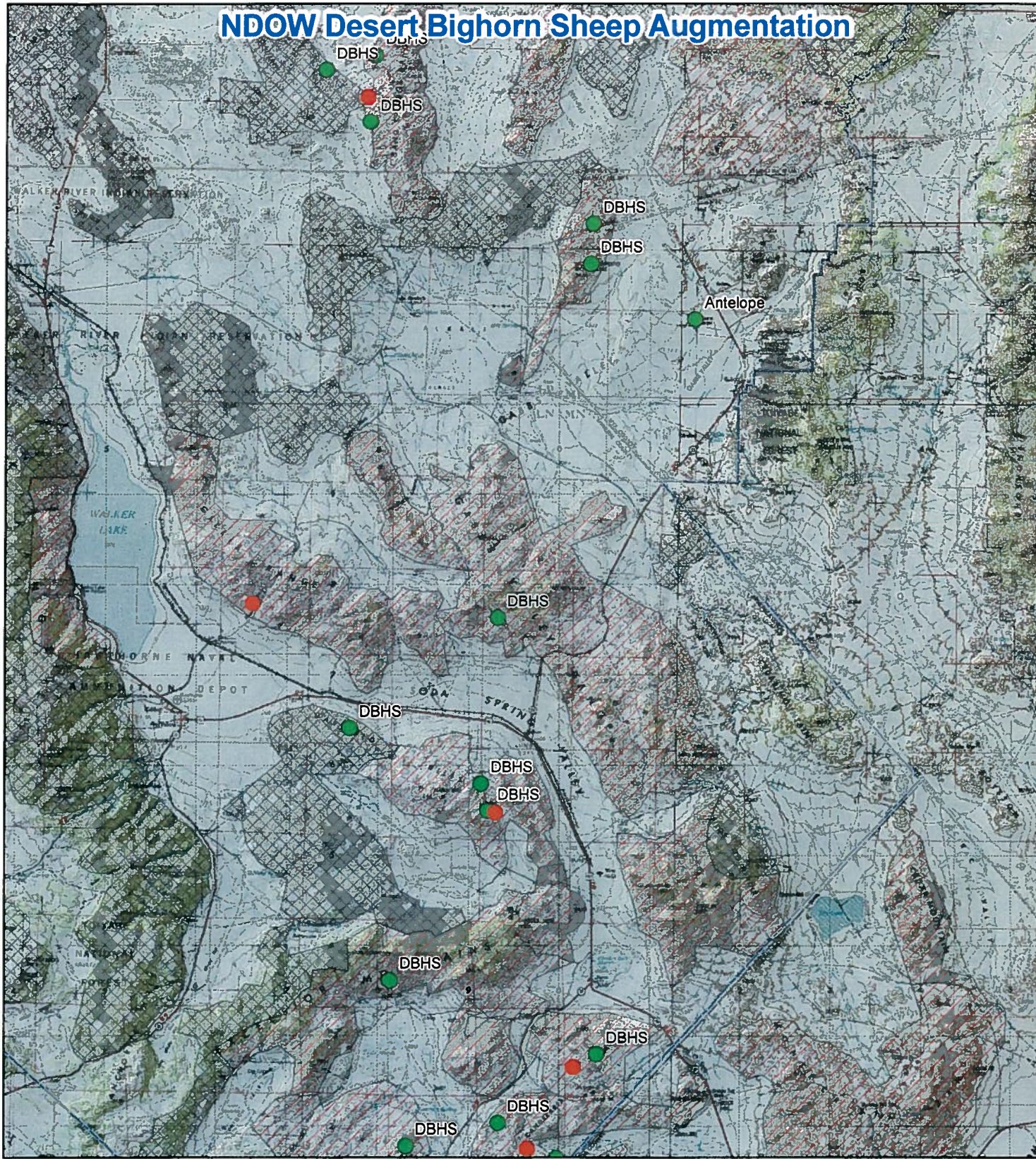
Teresa J. Knutson
 Teresa J. Knutson
 Field Manager
 Stillwater Field Office

12/10/2012
 (date)

NDOW Desert Bighorn Sheep Augmentation

BLM

Carson City District Office



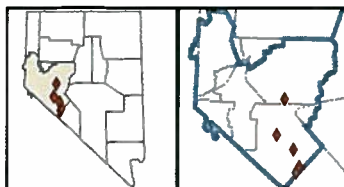
Legend

- DBHS Release Sites 2012-2017
- DBHS Water Developments
- Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat 2012 Occupied
- Desert Bighorn Sheep Potential Distribution 2012
- CCDO Boundary

N
1:591,874

0 2 4 8 Miles

Carson City District Office and County Boundaries



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office
5665 Morgan Mill Rd.
Carson City, NV. 89701
(775) 885-6000

Map Produced by: John Wilson
11/21/2012

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